

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

LUCAS, Ken (Democrat)  
Representative, 4th District, Kentucky  
Elected 1998 to 106th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



### BACKGROUND

Born: Covington, Kentucky - 22 August 1933  
Home: Richwood, Kentucky  
Marital Status: Married (Mary) - 5 children  
Religion: Christian Church  
Education: Univ of Kentucky, BS, 1955; Xavier Univ, MBA, 1970  
Military: US Air Force, 1955-7; Air National Guard, 1957-67 (Major)  
Profession: Banking executive, financial planner, university regent  
Political: Boone County Judge - Executive, 1992-8. Defeated State Sen Gex "Jay" Williams (R) in 1998 general election for the 6<sup>th</sup> District seat with 53% of the vote to succeed Rep Jim Bunning (R) who ran for the Senate. Reelected in 2000 with 54% of the vote and in 2002 with 51% of the vote to the newly drawn 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep Lucas, lone Democrat in the Kentucky delegation, is a conservative with few allegiances with national Democrats. Although rumored to be considering a party switch, decided to remain a Democrat and announced he would renounce his term limits pledge and seek reelection in 2004. Affiliates himself with both the "Blue Dogs" and the New Democrats - two groups of conservative Democratic lawmakers. His top priorities are improving education, encouraging economic growth, and protecting Social Security. Supports permitting patients to sue their managed-care providers for denial of service and opposes federally-funded school vouchers. (Politics in America, 2004)

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress introduced H.R. 2845, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher Training Act, a bill to encourage the use of technology in the classroom. The parents of Air Force Major Sonnie Bates, a Northern Kentucky native and one of the highest-ranking military officers to refuse the controversial anthrax vaccine and be punished over the issue, are his constituents. Rep Lucas remarked that "It is unfortunate that the situation was resolved in this fashion. At a time when we are having trouble recruiting and retaining the best and brightest in our military, it is troubling that we have lost someone of Maj Bates' caliber." Asserted that "The questions surrounding the anthrax program are substantial enough to call for further study. During that time, I think it is only wise that we suspend the program." In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, traded his seat on the Budget Cmte for one on Financial Services. At the beginning of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress was one of four Democrats not to vote for Rep Pelosi (D-CA) as minority leader. Despite the action, Pelosi appointed Lucas to the newly formed Homeland Security Cmte.

Additional: Member, Air Force Caucus. His son, Lance, is a former USAF pilot and now attorney.  
AF Bases: None

### COMMITTEES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY – Subcs on: Cybersecurity, Science and  
Research and Development; Emergency Preparedness and Response  
AGRICULTURE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES